

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01

IO-14 SY-04 /106 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2069

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GW, GE

SUBJECT: THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR

REF: BONN 6630

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR IS TODAY HEADLINE
NEWS AND WAS THE SUBJECT OF A SPECIAL DEBATE IN THE
BUNDESTAG. UNLESS INFORMATION NOT NOW AVAILABLE COMES
TO LIGHT, HOWEVER, THE MATTER WILL SHORTLY RECEDE FROM
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PUBLIC VIEW HAVING DONE THE GOVERNMENT NO CRITICAL

DAMAGE, BUT REENFORCING THE GENERAL IMPRESSION OF ILS
INEPTNESS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A "CURRENT EVENTS HOUR" ON APRIL 26 THAT LASTED
ONLY 40 MINUTES, THE OPPOSITION SOUGHT, WITH LIMITED
SUCCESS, TO DEPICT THE GOVERNMENT AS INSUFFICIENTLY
ALERT TO ESPIONAGE THREATS TO GERMAN SECURITY,
QUESTIONED THE USEFULNESS OF HAVING PERMITTED GUILLAUME
TO CONTINUE HIS ACTIVITIES AS LONG AS IN FACT WAS THE
CASE, AND RECOMMENDED THAT SPYING IN THE FRG BE MADE
MORE DANGEROUS BY HAVING THE EXCHANGE OF AGENTS WITH
THE GDR THE EXCEPTION RATHER THAN THE RULE, AS THE
OPPOSITION ARGUED IT HAS BECOME.

2. THE GOVERNMENT, LED BY JUSTICE MINISTER JAHN,
INTERIOR MINISTER GENSCHER, AND THE CHANCELLOR, DENIED
THAT THE EXCHANGE OF AGENTS IS NOW THE RULE, PRAISED,
TO GENERAL APPLAUSE, THE ALERTNESS OF THE FRG'S
SECURITY FORCES, AND DEFENDED THE DECISION TO
LET GUILLAUME CONTINUE HIS ACTIVITIES IN HOPE OF
UNCOVERING OTHER AGENTS.

COMMENT: UNLESS INFORMATION NOT NOW AVAILABLE COMES TO
LIGHT PROLONGING PUBLIC INTEREST, THEAFFAIR

- WILL DISAPPEAR FROM

PUBLIC VIEW IN A VERY SHORT TIME, HAVING MADE A SMALL
CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALREADY CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC
DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE BRANDT GOVERNMENT BUT PROBABLY
CAUSING NO GREAT DAMAGE BY ITSELF. THE ARREST OF
EASTERN AGENTS, PARTICULARLY FROM THE GDR, HAS OCCURRED
SO OFTEN IN THE FRG IN THE PAST THAT IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE FOR THE OPPOSITION TO GET MORE POLITICAL
MILEAGE OUT OF THE GUILLAUME CASE THAN IS INHERENTLY
THERE, AND THAT PROBABLY IS NOT VERY MUCH. THE CASE
DOES DEMONSTRATE, HOWEVER, THE CONTINUING REALITIES OF
FRG-GDR RELATIONS, AND THUS WILL CONTRIBUTE FURTHER
BOTH TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC'S DISSATISFACTION WITH
OSTPOLITIK AS WELL AS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S APPEARANCE OF
CLUMSINESS.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, GE, GC, (GUILLAUME, GUENTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005